

REMARKS

The above-captioned application is being filed herewith under 35 U.S.C. §371. Applicants wish to enter this preliminary amendment to incorporate cross-reference to related applications and to eliminate multiple claim dependencies and reduce the overall claim number prior to calculation of the fees. Applicants make these Preliminary Amendments prior to examination and without prejudice or disclaimer of any excluded subject matter, and expressly reserve the right to pursue such subject matter in this application or in one or more continuing applications. Claims 1-33 are pending.

Applicant has amended the specification to add the priority claim. Early and favorable action is requested. Applicants have amended the claims to remove some multiple dependencies.

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In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing **docket no. 514862003600**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By Michael R. Ward
Michael R. Ward
Registration No.: 38,651
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
425 Market Street
San Francisco, California 94105
(415) 268-6237